

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1162

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: AS, PORG

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON UNITED NATIONS MATTERS

REF: STATE 017162

1. SUMMARY: MR. J.A. PIPER, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY DFA FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, EXPRESSED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. PROPOSALS TO DEPOLITICIZE UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, BUT NOTED THAT PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD TAKE TIME AND PATIENCE. HE SAID DFA WAS PREPARING A PAPER CONTAINING PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN ECOSOC. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT U.S. WAS DEVOTING TOO MUCH ENERGY IN ATTEMPTING TO KEEP PLO AND SIMILAR GROUPS FROM PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND BELIEVES THAT U.S. MUST ATTEMPT TO FIND SOME COMMON GROUND WITH LDCS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH ARISE WITHIN U.N. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. HE SAID AUSTRALIA WOULD BE WORKING WITH CANADA, THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES TO FIND SUCH A MIDDLE GROUND. PIPER ALSO NOTED THAT THE U.S. WAS INCREASINGLY BEING VIEWED AS A
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PAGE 02 CANBER 01162 210755Z

QTE NEGATIVE FORCE END QTE IN U.N. AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY

2. EMBASSY LEFT OFF WITH AUSTRALIAN DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON JAN. 31 AIDE MEMOIRE EMBODYING POINTS IN REFTEL. IN FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION OF U.S. PROPOSALS TO DECREASE POLITICIZATION OF U.N. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, J.A. PIPER, DFA FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TOLD EMBOFF FEB. 18 THAT DFA WELCOMED U.S. INITIATIVES AND AGREED WITH THRUST OF OUR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. HE WAS LESS THAN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EARLY OR EXTENSIVE PROGRESS, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE ATTITUDES OF LDCS. IN HIS VIEW IT WILL TAKE TIME AND PATIENCE TO DEPOLITICIZE THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. HE WARNED THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT GIVE THE APPEARANCE THAT THEY ARE FORMING A QTE RICH MAN'S CLUB END QTE IN APPROACHING THESE PROBLEMS SINCE THIS WOULD ONLY HARDEN LDC ATTITUDES. PIPER CITED THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN THE SECRETARIATS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS A PROMISING MOVE AND SAID THAT THE AFRICAN IN CHARGE OF THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT IMPRESSED THE AUSTRALIANS AS A SENSIBLE PERSON WHO COULD BE COUNTED ON TO TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES. PIPER COULD NOT RECALL HIS NAME, AND WE DO NOT KNOW NAME, EITHER. THE GOA BELIEVES THAT UNESCO HAS GOTTEN TOO POLITICAL AND IS WORKING ON PROPOSALS TO TURN IT IN MORE POSITIVE DIRECTIONS. PIPER ALSO SAID THAT THE GOA WAS STUDYING A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF ECOSOC VIS-A-VIS THE OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

3. PIPER SAID THAT, WHILE THE GOA BELIEVED POLITICAL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DEBATED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO ARISE IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS WELL. IN THIS CONNECTION HE FELT THAT THE U.S. WAS DEVOTING TOO MUCH ENERGY TO ATTEMPTS TO KEEP THE PLO AND SIMILAR GROUPS FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH U.S. MOVES TENDED TO INCREASE THE DRIFT TOWARDS POLITICIZING THESE AGENCIES.

4. PIPER ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE TENDENCY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE A COMPLETELY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE AGAINST LDC INITIATIVES IN UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES DEALING WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS. THE GOA FEELS THAT SOME OF THE LDC ATTITUDES TOWARDS PRODUCER CARTELS ARE JUST-
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PAGE 03 CANBER 01162 210755Z

IFIED. THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MUST SEEK SOME COMMON GROUND WITH THE LDCS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES; IT ISN'T ENOUGH TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE. AUSTRALIA WILL BE WORKING WITH THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, CANADA, AND THE NETHERLANDS TO SEEK SUCH COMMON POSITIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION HE REFERRED TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY AS A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN THIS PROPOSAL. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THAT, INCREASINGLY,

THE UNITED STATES WAS BEING VIEWED AS A QTE NEGATIVE FORCE
END QTE IN UNITED NATIONS MATTERS.

5. COMMENT. THIS CONVERSATION DEALT LARGELY IN GENERALITIES
BUT THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS USEFUL IN CONVEYING GENERAL
AUSTRALIAN THINKING ON UN MATTERS. END COMMENT.
HARROP

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